

Reduced use of pesticides with IPM strategy of low undergrowth sowing on a fruit farm

The Farm

Region: Podravje (north-eastern Slovenia)

Area: 4 ha of orchards

The strategy for pest management

The European Commission aims to reduce the total use of pesticides by 50 % before 2030. This strategy is a major challenge for European agriculture. Most of the public and media discussions are about reducing insecticides, where fungicides (40 %) and herbicides (33 %) account for a larger share. There are many IPM methods to reduce the use of herbicides, one of which is low undergrowth sowing in orchards. As an alternative to herbicides, annual flowers, perennials and low soybeans are planted. The control is represented by the existing undergrowth under the trees. The goal of the presentation event was to present which undergrowth successfully and non-competitively thrives under apple trees.



Conclusions

- Low undergrowth, annual flowers, perennial flowers and low soybeans are good alternatives to glyphosate use.
- They play a beneficial role by providing biodiversity and supporting ecosystem services.
- Regulation of grass mixtures must be optimally adapted to growth.



Reduced use of pesticides!